5   IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor:	Kurt Clement
Application No.:	09/518,787
Filed:	March 3, 2000
Title:	SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTION METHOD AND APPARATUS

Examiner:	*not yet known*
Art Unit:	2768
Atty. Docket No.:	99.03776

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC   20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Assistant Commissioner:

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Please preliminarily amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Amended) A method of distributing software with a computer system to a

2   user comprising the acts of:

3   recording data on a fixed medium in the computer system;

4   providing for transfer of the computer system to the user; and

5   controlling access to the data through computer executable code that requires

6   authorization for continued access to the data by automatically:

7   detecting access to the data by the user, and

8   querying the user's account, and if permission to continued access is verified,

9   then enabling continued access to the data.

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